

6949

Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Testimony Against Raised H.B. No. 6949 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD
VACCINATIONS

By Anissa Andrews

Norwalk, CT

Submitted March 22, 2015 at 1:15 AM

Attn: Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Matt Ritter and members of Public Health
Committee.

My name is Anissa Andrews. I am a concerned parent and Connecticut resident and I am writing
testimony against HB 6949.

I oppose this proposed bill because it violates parents and guardians' First Amendment rights to
free exercise of their religious beliefs. Parents should not be required to sign an incriminating
statement in order to claim their legal right to a religious exemption. There is the added layer
that they are being asked to sign and notarize a document saying that they understand the
medical risks as dictated by the Department of Health. What does their understanding of the
perceived risk information have to do with their religious beliefs?

The questions also arise as to what purpose the notarized statement may be used in the future and
whether it will be used against parents during legal proceedings with DCF, custody battles and
other unforeseen situations. What will be done with these notarized statements? Who will have
access to them? Will they be public? What is the real purpose behind this proposed bill?

We have freedom of religion in this country and the freedom of choice as to how we practice our
religion. If we start chipping away selectively at that freedom of choice for the perceived
"greater good" of society, are we not inching towards a more communist way of thinking when it
suits us?

Connecticut religious exemption laws aren't broken, please protect our First Amendment right of
freedom to religion and do not support HB 6949.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service,

Anissa Andrews